

On this day of independence for Israel we must recognize that a peaceful resolution to the conflict between Israel and its neighbors will only be possible when Israelis and Palestinians recognize their mutual interests and take substantive steps to demonstrate their commitment to a solution. All parties must realize that the only vision for a long-term solution is for two states—Israel, Palestine—to live side by side in security and in peace. That will require hard choices and leadership by Israelis, Palestinians, and their Arab neighbors.

For the Israelis, that means establishing secure and defensible borders, withdrawing from occupied areas, and recognizing the viability of a Palestinian state. For the Palestinians, that means not only renouncing terrorism but cutting ties to terrorists, halting arms shipments, unequivocally recognizing Israel's right to exist and stifling the rhetoric that encourages and glorifies the continuation of Palestinian terrorism against Israel.

In spite of all of its struggles past and present Israel's cultural and artistic activity has flourished, blending Middle Eastern, North African and Western elements, as Jews arriving from all parts of the world brought with them the unique traditions of their own communities as well as aspects of the culture prevailing in the countries where they had lived for generations.

When Israel celebrated its 10th anniversary, the population numbered over two million. During Israel's second decade (1958–68), exports doubled, and the GNP increased some 10 percent annually. While some previously imported items such as paper, tires, radios and refrigerators were now being manufactured locally, the most rapid growth took place in the newly established branches of metals, machinery, chemicals and electronics. Since the domestic market for homegrown food was fast approaching the saturation point, the agricultural sector began to grow a larger variety of crops for the food processing industry as well as fresh produce for export. A second deep-water port was built on the Mediterranean coast at Ashdod, in addition to the existing one at Haifa, to handle the increased volume of trade.

Israel's foreign relations expanded have expanded steadily, as close ties were developed with the United States, British Commonwealth countries, most western European states, nearly all the countries of Latin America and Africa, and some in Asia. Extensive programs of international cooperation were initiated, as hundreds of Israeli physicians, engineers, teachers, agronomists, and irrigation experts and youth organizers shared their know-how and experience with people in other developing countries. Clearly this nation has come far in its relatively short lifetime.

On this day of reflection let us recognize that on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea sits a land of freedom and democracy—Israel. Surrounded by hostility, but a place where freedom and tolerance are alive today. On this day of independence for Israel, I hope all people of good will would join me in praying for peace in the Middle East.

RECOGNIZING OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIANS

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. WATTS. Mr. Speaker, April 18 is National D.O. Day, a day when we recognize the more than 47,000 osteopathic physicians (D.O.s) for their contributions to the American healthcare system. On National D.O. Day, more than 100 members of the osteopathic medical profession, including osteopathic physicians and osteopathic medical students, will descend upon Capitol Hill to share their views with Congress.

I especially am pleased that osteopathic physicians from Oklahoma will be visiting our nation's Capitol and participating in this event. These representatives are practicing osteopathic physicians, staff from the American Osteopathic Association, and osteopathic medical students.

Participants in National D.O. Day are here to talk about how liability insurance rates for all health care professionals—especially those in high-risk specialties and rural areas—are increasing rapidly. Numerous commercial insurers are no longer offering professional liability insurance for physicians and others have stopped covering certain procedures or services. A continuation of this trend will, over time, lead to a shortage of physicians and create access to care problems for our citizens. I share their concerns about access to care. Several States, including my home State of Oklahoma, are facing critical access problems and this trend will only continue to worsen if action is not taken.

For more than a century, osteopathic physicians have made a difference in the lives and health of my fellow Oklahomans and all Americans. Overall, osteopathic physicians provide care to more than 100 million patients each year. Osteopathic physicians are committed to serving the needs of rural and underserved communities and make up 15 percent of the total physician population in towns of 10,000 or less.

D.O.s are certified in nearly 60 specialties and 33 subspecialties. Similar to requirements set for their M.D. colleagues, D.O.s must complete and pass: four years of medical education at one of 19 osteopathic medical schools-, a one-year internship-, a multi-year residency-, and a State medical board exam. Throughout this education, D.O.s are trained to understand how the musculoskeletal system influences the condition of all other body systems. Many patients want this extra education as a part of their health care. Individuals may call (866) 346-3236 to find a D.O. in their community.

In recognition of National D.O. Day, I would like to congratulate the over 1,200 D.O.s in Oklahoma, the 350 students at the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, and the 47,000 D.O.s represented by the American Osteopathic Association for their contributions to the good health of the American people.

CARE BY CELEBRATING CHILDREN DAY

HON. JAMES C. GREENWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Care by Celebrating Children Day on April 26, a day set aside to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of children that make the world a better place for us all. Today, we invite every adult to visit their child in school, where they will learn about and admire the ways in which those children grow every day. By distinguishing their efforts and accomplishments, this day helps to raise the self-esteem of the children, builds bridges between the community and the school, introduces the children to role models, and teaches the children about their value to the community.

It is also my privilege to introduce Ms. Gail Delevich in conjunction with this day. Ms. Delevich is an elementary school teacher in the Central Bucks School District, in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. She spearheaded this initiative at her elementary school, after she was disheartened at the multitude of negative media coverage of American schools in the wake of the Columbine tragedy and other episodes of school violence. Rather than chastise students or criticize our education system as inadequate to prevent violence, this day celebrates children and their accomplishments as students, athletes, artists and young leaders.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the State of New Jersey have already declared a day each April as Care by Celebrating Children Day, and I present this remark in hope of expanding the day's recognition to the national level. I hope that this day, which honors, celebrates, and encourages our children, our most precious resource, will empower children to believe in themselves, working hard to prepare for their future and for the future of our Nation.

A BILL TO STRENGTHEN AND IMPROVE THE BENEFITS PROVIDED TO SMALL BUSINESSES UNDER INTERNAL REVENUE CODE SECTION 179

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Small Business Expensing Improvement Act of 2002," legislation to assist small businesses with the cost of new business investment. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by Mr. TANNER, as well as several other of my colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee.

Small businesses truly are the backbone of our economy, representing more than half of all jobs and economic output. We should not take small business vitality for granted, however. Rather, our tax laws should support small businesses in their role as the engines of innovation, growth, and job creation.

On March 19 of this year, President Bush unveiled his small business proposal. I applaud the President for his commitment to our

nation's small business owners and his dedication to ensure that our tax laws do not impede the growth and development of small businesses. The legislation we are introducing today will implement a key element of the President's plan, expansion of the benefits available to small businesses under Internal Revenue Code Section 179.

Our bill will improve our tax laws to make it easier for small businesses to make the crucial investments in new equipment necessary for continued prosperity. Under Code Section 179, a small business is allowed to expense the first \$24,000 in new business investment in a year. Our legislation will permanently increase this amount to \$40,000. Furthermore, our bill will index this amount to ensure that the value of this provision is not eroded over time.

This legislation will also allow more small businesses to take advantage of expensing by increasing from \$200,000 to \$325,000 the total amount a business may invest in a year and qualify for Section 179. It is important to note that this amount has not been adjusted for inflation since its enacting into law in 1986.

The "Small Business Expensing Improvement Act" also improves the small business expensing provision by following the recommendations of the IRS National Taxpayer Advocate in his 2000 Annual Report to Congress. Specifically, our legislation clarifies that residential rental personal property and off-the-shelf computer software qualify for expensing under Section 179.

Mr. Speaker, in times of economic uncertainty, we must do all we can to encourage new investment and job creation. The "Small Business Expensing Improvement Act of 2002" will help accomplish this worthy goal, and I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort.

HOPING TO LIVE ONE DAY IN AN ENVIRONMENT FREE FROM POLLUTION

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, soon after I delivered my remarks on the House floor this morning, I received numerous calls from news organizations. Unfortunately, these calls were not about the importance of the Clean Air Act, which was the subject of my one-minute speech. Instead, the press was more concerned about a pause I took during the Pledge of Allegiance—as I was trying to determine if I had my back to the American flag—than what I said about protecting our environment. I would hope the media pays closer attention to the issues affecting our air quality so that the people of this Nation, under God, will be able to one day live in an environment free from pollution.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE NINETEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIRL SCOUTS

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional organization, the Girl Scouts of the USA.

Since Juliette Gordon Low assembled the first Girl Scout troop in March of 1912, the Girl Scouts have not only grown in number, but also in the scope of their mission. Generations of young women have developed positive values and a greater sense of self-worth by participating in Girl Scout programs.

For 90 years, the Girl Scouts have opened doors of opportunity for girls from all walks of life, and they continue to expand their outreach efforts. They have renewed their commitment to reach beyond racial, ethnic, socioeconomic and geographic boundaries. Diversity can be found in all the activities in which these young women engage. From science and technology, to money management and finance, to global awareness, Girl Scouts experience it all.

Mr. Speaker, the Girl Scouts of the Hudson Valley Council in New York State are fine examples of the Girl Scout mission. Girl Scouts in my district are committed to developing leadership skills and honing a finer sense of social conscience by engaging in a wide range of activities. When they collect supplies for the Merilac Women's Shelter in Albany, when they plant flowers and trees outside of the Colonie Town Hall in remembrance of the lives lost on September 11th, and when they make cards of thanks to the firefighters of New York City, Girl Scouts are making a difference. Thousands of girls in the Capital District will be forever impacted by the experiences they had and the friendships they made while participating in the Girl Scouts.

We must also extend our gratitude to the adults, both women and men, who volunteer their time to ensure that the highest ideals of character, conduct, patriotism and service continue to be imparted on our Nation's girls and young women.

I congratulate the Girl Scouts on their 90 years of service. Our communities have benefited from their accomplishments and I wish them many more decades of success.

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSWOMAN JANE HARMAN ON ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 2002

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, Secretary of State Powell leaves the Middle East having failed to secure a cease-fire between Israel and the Palestinians, or make substantial progress toward peace. It was perhaps too much to hope for a dramatic breakthrough, but the status quo remains unacceptable.

As we celebrate and commemorate Israeli Independence Day, it is more important than ever to remember why the United States has such a strong relationship with Israel.

Fifty-four years ago, the creation of the state of Israel gave hope to Jews everywhere that safety, freedom, and justice could be found at last—in the ancient cradle of the Jewish faith and civilization. A half-century of friendship and cooperation between Israel and the United States began with President Truman's courageous recognition of Israel shortly after its establishment. Throughout many battles, our relationship has remained strong, and it continues today, with our common search for security and peace in the Middle East.

Israel is now engaged in one of its most challenging wars ever, the war against terrorism. Since the latest Palestinian intifada began, more than 400 Israeli civilians have been killed by suicide bombers—over 125 since March. Hundreds more have been injured in these attacks—attacks that are designed to strike at the heart of Israel itself.

The Palestinians have also suffered hundreds of casualties, and innocent civilians, including children, are being used as human shields by terrorists hiding in refugee camps.

Peace is the only way to move forward, a peace that contemplates two states coexisting side-by-side. But Israel can only achieve peace from a position of strength. I have long been an advocate for a strong US-Israel security relationship. Now is not the time to back away from our security relationship or to give any credence to the misguided efforts of the European Union to impose economic sanctions against Israel.

A critical contribution towards resolution of the current crisis must be taken by moderate Arab regimes—our allies such as Egypt and Saudi Arabia—to pressure the Palestinians to genuinely renounce terrorism. Chairman Arafat's recent statement deploring terrorist attacks—delivered in English to an American—served no more purpose than to bring Secretary Powell to Ramallah. Far more revealing was a recent statement from Mr. Arafat's wife—in Arabic to the Arabic press—saying that she would be proud to have a future son become a suicide bomber.

It has unfortunately been shown time and time again that the parties in the region will be unable to achieve peace on their own. All past breakthroughs for peace have been the result of US and international leadership and every future breakthrough will require the same. I commend the Administration for resuming a leadership role in the Mideast, and I urge it to remain engaged with the parties and moderate Arab states in the region.

Last week, in a ceremony commemorating Yom ha-Shoah, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice made the connection between our remembrance of the Holocaust and our continued fight against evil in the war on terrorism. I would ask that her remarks be entered into the RECORD.

May our memories of the horror of the Holocaust fuel our hunger for a permanent peace.

REMARKS BY CONDOLEEZZA RICE, ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS, AT THE 2002 NATIONAL COMMEMORATION OF THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE—U.S. CAPITOL ROTUNDA, WASHINGTON, D.C.

As Prepared

Survivors, liberators, Members of Congress, Members of the Cabinet, Ambassador Ivry, other members of the diplomatic corps, Benjamin Meed, Fred Zeidman, Elie Wiesel, Ruth Mandel, other honored guests, ladies